



Funding Source:
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) – 48% C-Corp -52%

Program:
Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia

Project name:
Horokiki Cocoa Plantation

Project Location:
North Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

Project Start Date:
1 January 2009

Project End Date:
31 December 2011

Total Grant Funds Approved:
A\$1,155,000

For more information please visit www.enterprisechallengefund.org

C-Corp Limited

ABOUT THE COMPANY

C-Corp has been operating in the cocoa industry in the Solomon Islands for over 2 years. The company is also involved in coastal shipping and general commodity trading, mainly in timber, copra and dry goods.

THE PROJECT AND HOW IT WORKS

With the support of an ECF grant, C-Corp will rehabilitate and redevelop 280ha of Horokiki cocoa and 60 ha of new cocoa plantations in collaboration with local landowners in the Solomon Islands. Funding will support the growing of cocoa beans on the plantations, the purchase of a cocoa processing unit and the marketing of Guadalcanal origin premium grade cocoa to export markets.

C-Corp will also operate a cocoa seedling nursery to supply seedlings to both the plantation unit and other regional outgrowers. The nursery will operate from three locations in the north and east Guadalcanal Province areas, with the capacity to produce 70,000 seedlings per annum.

PRO-POOR BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The anticipated benefits of this project include:

- secure and permanent income source for an additional 100 plus local cocoa farmers (C-Corp will provide a mobile buying service into isolated villages that do not currently have access to transport and reliable markets)
- increase in existing farmers' incomes through the purchase of increased quantities of different grades of cocoa

- creation of 50 permanent jobs and a further 50-60 casual positions, making C-Corp one of the largest employers in the Solomon Islands agricultural sector

The project will help to overcome the existing barriers to the effective involvement of rural suppliers in commercial agricultural projects by providing:

- reliable transport linkages
- supply of appropriate seedlings
- technical extension services to improve cocoa yield and quality for international export
- a reliable and more lucrative local market for cocoa.

It will also be a good model for others to replicate, boost investor and financial institutions confidence in the crucial agricultural sector and generate export earnings of around \$US 2 million per year for downstream processed cocoa.

THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

ECF funding support to establish a processing unit to ferment and dry cocoa beans will enable production of up to 5 tonnes per day, including a premium quality cocoa for export.

It will also support plantation infrastructure which will improve vehicle access to and from the plantation.

ECF funding is essential for the project to operate at the necessary scale and in the time frame proposed. In the difficult Solomon Islands environment the grant also represents a risk sharing mechanism that will allow the project to provide the full range of benefits to suppliers and the local communities.



Australian Government
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